

BACKING OF KHANH AFFIRMED BY U.S.

Regime Called 'Best Means'
of Building Vietnam Unity

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 24—

The United States reaffirmed today its support for the South Vietnamese regime in the face of opposition to it by student and religious groups.

Commenting on anti-Government violence that has spread throughout the country in the last two days, a State Department spokesman, Robert J. McCloskey, said, "Obviously, anything of a divisive nature is in the interest of neither the Vietnamese Government nor its people."

Although Mr. McCloskey insisted that the riots were an internal matter for the Vietnamese Government and that it was "too early" to discuss the demonstrators' motivations, other officials privately expressed concern.

The anti-Government unrest was viewed as another dangerous element in weakening the structure of the Saigon regime at a time when the Vietcong guerrillas are pressing their attacks with growing vigor and when pressures for a negotiated settlement of the war are rising in many quarters.

President Johnson met at 6 P.M. at the White House with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. It was not immediately known whether the Vietnam situation had been a topic of discussion. Mr. McNamara has just returned from a European vacation.

The main theme of the official comments was emphasis that the United States would take an extremely serious and negative view of any move to oust the regime of President Nguyen Khanh.

The officials cautioned against any analogies between the present charges of "dictatorship" being directed at President Khanh and the situation that prevailed a year ago when opposition was rising against the regime of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

To make the United States position clear, Mr. McCloskey read the following statement:

"The United States Government fully recognizes the need for national unity in South Vietnam and is, therefore, supporting the Khanh Government as the best means of building such unity at the same time that the war effort is being prosecuted."

There was no immediate evaluation here of the origins and precise motivations behind the riots. The inclination among officials was to ascribe them more to political than to religious problems, even though tensions between Buddhists and Roman Catholics have reappeared.

Mr. McCloskey said the situation was "not clear at this time" and therefore he could not say whether the riots might have been inspired by Vietcong agitators.

C.I.A. Study Discounted

Discussing a study suggesting a negotiated settlement in Vietnam, prepared by a member of the Central Intelligence Agency's Board of National Estimates, Mr. McCloskey said: "Such a paper is not nor does it purport to be a statement on policy on any of the subjects which it discusses."

The 45-page study was written by Willard Matthias as a general policy discussion. It was made available Saturday after the administration had become aware that The Chicago Tribune had obtained a copy of the document.

Mr. Matthias's conclusions, which were described as representing his own views and not those of the C.I.A. as a whole and not of the Johnson administration, emphasized pessimism as to the chances of winning the anti-Communist war in Vietnam.

While the classified document had the "general approval" of the C.I.A.'s Board of National Estimates, according to a notation on its cover sheet, there had been no attempt within

the board to seek agreement on all the points.

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